

REMARKS

In the Claims

The claims were cancelled without prejudice and disclaimer and new claims are submitted to replace them. New claims 8-15 find full support in the original claims and no new matter is added thereto. Changes in the claims were made merely to further clarify the claims, and not for reasons of patentability.

The Claim Objections, the Rejections Under 35 USC § 112, and the Rejections Under 35 USC § 101

The new claims are written in a form which overcomes all the claim objections, the rejections under 35 USC § 112, and the rejections under 35 USC § 101.

Double Patenting

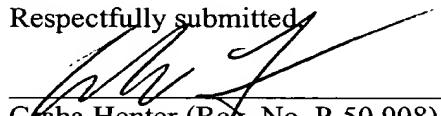
The Office Action provisionally rejected Claims 1-7 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over Claims 23-24 of co-pending application No 09/755,429. As soon as the subject matter of the claims which may be finally allowed is determined, an obviousness determination will be made regarding the subject matter of the claims of the 09/755,429 application.

The Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 103

The current invention is not obvious over these references. Neither cited reference teaches or suggests the intermittent oral administration of an estrogen sulfamate. As explained in the specification, it was nonobvious that estrogen sulfamates had good oral bioavailability and a half life of estrogen release sufficiently long to make intermittent administration feasible. Therefore the claims are not obvious.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,



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